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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

TOPIC Krakow-Rakowice Airfield

EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 12 October 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. A railroad spur track entered the Polish military airfield north of Krakow-Rakowice (Q 51/2 24) from the north. No concrete runway was seen. The landing field dried quickly after rainfalls.
2. Four hangars, each about 100 meters long, had vaulted roofs and were on the eastern edge of the field. The buildings on the southern section of the field had been destroyed during the war and all the debris had been removed between the summer of 1948 and December 1948. Barracks, administration buildings and workshops were south of the former airfield buildings. There was one obstacle light.
3. Many aircraft, details of which could not be observed, were parked on the northern edge of the field. From 40 to 50 twin-engine planes with radial engines, three-bladed propellers, single rudder assemblies and cabin windows were parked near the hangars. Eight to ten biplanes were on the southern edge of the field.
4. There was mostly individual flying. Not more than three planes were in the air at the same time. There was also firing at ground targets, mostly on the northern section of the field, after the summer of 1949. The planes took off individually and landed after about 20 minutes. **
5. An estimated 900 to 1,000 men were quartered in the three barracks buildings. About half of them were flying and technical personnel, the remainder belonged to an air force construction unit. The large number of young officers was noticeable.
6. A strikingly large number of Soviet officers - about 30 - who wore soviet uniforms were seen at the field prior to late 1949. The number of Soviets decreased after early 1949. No soldiers wearing soviet uniforms were seen about March 1949. Soviet officers, allegedly engineer officers, who wore Polish uniforms were among the technical personnel.

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Comment.

The information on the flying activity indicates that this unit was still at the field [REDACTED] From the heavy occupation of the barracks buildings and the 40 to 50 twin-engine planes, possibly Li-2s, it is probable that another unit is also permanently stationed at the field. It is possibly an air transport unit equipped with Li-2s.

Comment.

It is not clear whether the officers returned to the U.S.S.R. or whether they are still on duty, wearing Polish uniforms. The last is the more probable.

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